

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

June 22, 2004

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FROM: MARY R. SAWICKI, Director
Department of Aging and Adult Services

SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS, INC.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve contract with Personal Emergency Response Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$70,000 to provide personal emergency response systems to Multipurpose Senior Services Program and Linkages Program clients throughout the County of San Bernardino from June 23, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Federal government and the State of California recognize the need to provide personal and health care services to eligible senior and disabled adults. Funds have been appropriated through the Federal and State governments to the County of San Bernardino to provide these services through programs such as the Multipurpose Senior Service Program (MSSP) and the Linkages Program. The California Department of Aging (CDA) has awarded funds to the County of San Bernardino, Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) to operate the MSSP and Linkages Programs since 1985.

The MSSP is designed to prevent or delay the need for long-term institutional care for eligible seniors while continuing to foster independent living in the community. The MSSP provides social and/or health-care case management to Medi-Cal recipients aged 65 or older, who are certified as being in need of skilled nursing care. DAAS' social workers are responsible for coordinating in-home services for MSSP clients that include a wide variety of services such as home chores, personal care, protective supervision, professional care assistance, respite, and personal emergency response.

The Linkages program is designed to prevent the premature or inappropriate institutionalization of disabled adults by linking these individuals with the services needed to maintain their independence. The services provided under the Linkages program are similar to those of MSSP, but are available to persons 18 years of age and older, who are at risk of institutionalization.

These services were last procured through several informal solicitations between 2001 and 2002. The procurements resulted in 45 agreements with various agencies providing a wide variety of services to approximately 4,200 unduplicated seniors per year under MSSP and approximately 135 unduplicated disabled adults per year under the Linkages Program. The current agreements will expire June 30, 2004.

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REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MULTIPURPOSE SENIOR SERVICES PROGRAM AND LINKAGES PROGRAM

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On February 10, 2004, the Board of Supervisors authorized the release of a Request for Applications (RFA) to procure personal and health care services for senior and disabled adults under the MSSP and Linkages Programs. The purpose of this RFA was to create a list of eligible agencies to provide various services. The RFA was advertised through the County's Internet website, area newspapers, and direct mailings. There were twenty-three agencies represented at the two non-mandatory application conferences; eighteen agencies submitted applications for a wide variety of services.

An evaluation team, comprised of individuals with varying areas of expertise relating to the RFA, completed an evaluation of the applications. The applications were evaluated on the agencies' service, cost, availability, geographic area, and experience. Of the eighteen agencies that submitted applications, fourteen will be placed on a list of eligible agencies to provide MSSP and Linkages services. Agencies unsuccessful in the procurement process were not awarded due to one or more of the following reasons: application was submitted late; application was rescinded by applicant; cost of services was too high. All but one of the fourteen successful agencies will be paid through the purchase order process; however, due to the recommended contract award being in excess of \$25,000, a contract is required for Personal Emergency Response Systems, Inc. (PERS) to provide personal emergency response system services to MSSP and Linkages clients throughout the County.

Personal emergency response services include the provision of communication devices for clients who are at risk of institutionalization due to physical conditions likely to result in a medical emergency. The communication device enables them to access assistance in the event of an emergency thereby decreasing premature institutionalization. PERS provides, installs, maintains, repairs, replaces and monitors on a 24 hour basis a two-way voice communication base unit with remote transmitter that can be worn around the neck, wrist or with a belt clip. The cost is \$20 per month per client. There are approximately 240 MSSP and Linkages clients currently receiving this service. The current provider did not apply at this time. PERS will convert the current clients with no installation charge, and services for these clients provided prior to July 1, 2004 will be at no charge to the County.

Approval of this contract will provide personal emergency response systems to approximately 240 DAAS clients throughout the County from June 23, 2004 through June 30, 2005, with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by the Senior Affairs Commission on June 16, 2004; HSS Contracts (Lori Ciabattini, Contracts Manager, 388-0253) on June 3, 2004; and the Office of County Counsel (Phebe W. Chu, Deputy County Counsel, 387-4725) on June 7, 2004. The item has been reviewed by HSS Finance (John Hallen, Administrative Analyst, 388-0330) on June 7, 2004 and the County Administrative Office (Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst, 388-0356) on June 7, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The total amount of the contract is not expected to exceed \$70,000. Adequate appropriations and revenues of \$70,000 have been included in DAAS' proposed FY 04/05 Budget. All costs associated with this contract will be 100% State and Federally funded. There is no local cost.

Cost Reduction Review: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends this action because the contract is 100% reimbursed by State and Federal revenues and will not result in any local cost.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: All

PRESENTER: Mary R. Sawicki, Director, Department of Aging & Adult Services, (909) 891-3917

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